Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraph [0035] (which begins on page 11, line 20 of the specification as filed) as follows:

> Another embodiment of the invention is directed to nucleic acids that comprises all or one or more portions of the sequence of a pleiotrophin receptor, to peptides derived from these sequences, and to sequences complementary thereto. The nucleic acid sequence that encodes the pleiotrophin receptor, ALK, can be found in GenBank at accession number U66559, which provides a human ALK nucleic acid sequence (SEQ ID No:1) and its corresponding CDS (SEQ ID NO:2). Nucleic acids of the invention may be single-stranded or double-stranded and composed of DNA, RNA or PNA, or another appropriate nucleic acid, polypeptide or functionally similar backbone structure. Single stranded nucleic acids may be in the form of a sense strand or an anti-sense strand. Further, receptor genes of the invention may be derived from other mammals besides humans (using identification and isolation procedures and techniques that are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art) such as, for example, mice, rats or any rodent, mammals such as cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, canines and felines, and most any other animal. Receptor genes of the invention include other nucleic acid sequences that may be identified, using techniques and procedures well known to those of ordinary skill in the art, that are found in insects (Drosophila), plants, yeast and other eukaryotic organisms.

Please amend paragraph [0039] (which begin on page 14, line 5 of the specification as filed) as follows:

> Another embodiment of the invention is directed to kits and methods which can be used to screen various substances for the ability to effect pleiotrophin-pleiotrophin receptor interaction and/or pleiotrophin receptor signaling. Kits may comprise he interacting portions of the pleiotrophin and pleiotrophin receptor proteins. Preferably, the portion of the pleiotrophin-receptor protein comprises the pleiotrophin-binding region such as, amino acids 368-447 or 391-401 of ~~PTN~~ ALK. Basically, substances

to be examined are incubated in the kits with the interacting portions. Incubations may be for a predetermine time and at a pre-determined temperature. Preferably, times are between one second and ten hours, preferably between one minute and one hour, and longer for incubations with cells such as between one and thirty days, preferably between two and ten days, but may be longer or shorter for each as desired or as the materials require. Temperatures are preferably between 4 °C. and 37 °C., but may be warmer or cooler as desired. More preferably, incubations are conducted at room temperatures (e.g. between 19 °C. and 25 °C.). Using the peptides of the invention, incubations can be varied to evaluate the effects of exposure time on the interaction of the substance. This evaluation is not possible using proteins that are constitutively turned on (i.e. induce signaling effects as if continually bound with pleiotrophin). Substances that can be evaluated include most any substance such as, for example, antibodies, different pleiotrophin proteins, different pleiotrophin-receptor proteins, drugs, anti-angiogenic substances, anti-proliferative and proliferative substances, anti-motogenic and motogenic substances, anti-metastatic substances, apoptotic substances, anti-tumorigenic substances, anti-neoplastic substances, biologically active substances and combinations thereof. Activities that can be examined or tested include, for example, anti-angiogenic activity, anti-proliferative activity, anti-motogenic activity, anti-metastatic activity, apoptotic activity, anti-tumorigenic activity, anti-neoplastic activity, and combinations thereof.